

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3425

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TW

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ROC RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF THERMAL
PROTECTORS

REF: STATE 229425

1. EMBASSY REP DISCUSSED WITH GROC OFFICIALS AND LOCAL
MICRO DISTRIBUTOR POSSIBILITIES OF OBTAINING AN EXEMPTION
FROM IMPORT DUTIES FOR THERMAL PROTECTORS OR THROUGH
USE OF BONDED WAREHOUSE OR EXPORTING PROCESSING ZONE
FACILITIES. RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS WERE NOT OVERLY
ENCOURAGING.

2. UNDER EXISTING GROC REGULATIONS ONLY MANUFACTURERS
MAY BUILD OR USE BONDED WAREHOUSES. APPROVAL WILL BE
GRANTED TO A MANUFACTURER TO BUILD HIS OWN BONDED
WAREHOUSE PROVIDED ITS CAPITAL IS REGISTERED AT US\$270,000
MINIMUM WITH PRODUCTS WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY MADE FOR EXPORT.
GOVERNMENT-OWNED BONDED WAREHOUSES ARE AVAILABLE FOR
RENT TO MANUFACTURERS ENGAGED IN EXPORT PRODUCTION WITH
A REGISTERED CAPITAL OF NO LESS THAN US\$135,000. GROC
OFFICIALS WERE QUITE NEGATIVE AS TO CONSIDERING A
REDUCTION IN CUSTOM TARIFF FOR THERMAL PROTECTOR FOR TIME
BEING. FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS THE LOCAL MICRO DISTRIBUTOR,
S. NIWA OF MURATA (JAIHN), SEEMS TO BE PRESENTLY IN
FAVOR OF IMPORTING THIS PRODUCT THROUGH JAPAN OR HONGKONG
RATHER THAN DIRECTLY FROM THE U.S.

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3. REFTEL PARA 2 ALL TAXES BASED ON CIF VALUE ARE APPLICABLE TO ALL NON-BONDED IMPORTS AND DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY SPECIFIC ITEM. EXEMPTION OF IMPORT DUTY WAS INCLUDED IN PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO MANUFACTURERS OPERATING IN EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES.

4. UNLESS MICRO IS CONSIDERING MANUFACTURING ON TAIWAN FOR SUBSEQUENT EXPORT EMBASSY DOES NOT RECOMMEND UTILIZATION OF AN EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE. IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR MICRO'S DISTRIBUTOR TO LOCATE IN AN EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE AND TO IMPORT THERMAL PROTECTORS FOR SALE TO MANUFACTURERS IN TAIWAN LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE. ALL RAW MATERIALS, COMPONENTS ETC. IMPORTED INTO AN EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE MUST BE SUBSEQUENTLY RE-EXPORTED.

5. EMBASSY KNOWS OF ONE AMERICAN FIRMS WHICH IMPORTS AND DISTRIBUTES AMERICAN CONSUMER GOODS WHICH HAS OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM MINISTRY OF FINANCE TO ESTABLISH A BONDED WAREHOUSE WHERE IMPORTED GOODS ARE HELD IN BOND AND CUSTOMS DUTIES ARE NOT PAID UNTIL GOODS ARE SENT TO VARIOUS DISTRIBUTORS. WE ARE SUGGESTING TO MICRO AGENT THAT HE EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH THE AMERICAN COMPANY.
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